



## Patriotism

by Evan Morrissey



Patriotism is a loaded word which means a lot of things to a lot of people. For some, it symbolizes pride in one's country; for others, exclusivity. For Americans, patriotism represents an important unifying factor in an incredibly diverse country.

Patriotism is perhaps most easily envisioned in the world of sports, particularly in terms of one group versus another. The Olympics are a noble effort to bring nations together in peaceful sporting competition. This is often accompanied by crowds of loyal fans – patriots – waving the flag of their country and cheering on their countrymen. I recall vividly the displays of patriotic joy after India's victory in the International Cricket Cup, flags waving and fireworks exploding at every corner. Indians of all religions, caste, and background gathered to celebrate a shared victory.

**To be American, for instance, is not to be born in the United States, to have a particular skin color, to worship a particular god, or to share any one trait – except a love of country. Perhaps this is why patriotism is such a strong force in the United States – it is the one thing all Americans share.**

Other vivid displays of patriotism are held on national days – in the case of the United States, on every July 4th. Americans celebrate this day as the anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence, the formalization of the American colonies' separation from the

British and the birth of our country. Today, many American families celebrate the 4th of July with family gatherings, outdoor barbecues, and firework displays. Red, white, and blue – the national colors of the United States – adorn everything from clothing and banners to fireworks and cake. American flags are omnipresent. It is a day used to celebrate our freedom, reflect on the sacrifices made to protect that freedom, and to gather with loved ones.

Patriotic displays in the United States often recall the struggles and victory of American forces over foes near and far. Parades in towns are held to honor our armed services and all those who serve to defend the United States. Patriotism is most often found

when one group (a country, tribe, sports team, etc.) is engaged in competition with another. Yet, a competitor is not necessary for patriotism to thrive, nor does patriotism imply blind devotion to a government or a leader. Simply put, the desire to constantly improve one's country out of love for the country itself is the noblest aspect of patriotism. For example, a patriot may be one who defends his country by serving in the military. A patriot may also be one who voices dissent against his government's policies over concern for the direction and good of his country.

India is a relatively new country with a long history. In countries with long cultural histories, such as India, people will often reference their collective history as a source of pride and strength. In relatively new countries with diverse populations, such as India and the United States, patriotism can take the place of shared history, ethnicity, religion, and language as a unifying factor for all citizens. To be American, for instance, is not to be born in the United States, to have a particular skin color, to worship a particular god, or to share any one trait – except a love of country. Perhaps this is why patriotism is such a strong force in the United States – it is the one thing all Americans share.

*Evan Morrissey works at the U.S. Consulate General, Mumbai*



Soldiers with the Continental Color Guard, 3rd U.S. Infantry Regiment (The Old Guard) line up near the National Archives building (left), in Washington, D.C., before the start of the Fourth of July Independence Day festivities on July 4, 2010. (AP Photo/Jacquelyn Martin)

### The American Center

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E-mail: [mumbaipublicaffairs@state.gov](mailto:mumbaipublicaffairs@state.gov); Website: <http://mumbai.usconsulate.gov>  
Office Hours: 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. (Monday through Friday)

### H O L I D A Y S

July 4: Independence Day

## A WORD FROM THE CENTER

Welcome to the American Center's first electronic Bulletin, or as we'll refer to it hereon, "e-Bulletin." As you'll notice, it's still very similar to the previous versions. In the coming months you'll see changes in the e-Bulletin as we transform it into a better product over time. One goal is that we hope to give you snapshots of past American Center and/or U.S. Consulate General events as well as information on known upcoming events – something you'll notice more of in this bulletin also.

This overall change is something to celebrate as we move to a form of communication in line with the times. Coincidentally, we also just celebrated the beginning of the monsoon, a welcome change post the intense heat. And as long as we're celebrating, let me take this opportunity to tell you a bit about the largest celebration for the United States which happens to fall in July – Independence Day also commonly known as the Fourth of July – for which we've chosen this month's theme to be patriotism.

This July 4, 2011, America will celebrate its 235th birthday! Independence Day is a national holiday commemorating the adoption of the Declaration of Independence when the United States declared its freedom from Great Britain. Independence Day is commonly associated with parades, fireworks, concerts, fairs, barbeques, carnivals, picnics, baseball games, family reunions, political speeches and ceremonies, and/or various other public and private events celebrating the history, government, and traditions of the United States. It's a chance for Americans to showcase their patriotism.

The patriotic fervor was already stirring in the air as I witnessed on my recent U.S. vacation where I visited four U.S. cities: Anchorage, Alaska; San Diego, California; West Palm Beach, Florida, and Atlanta, Georgia. Everywhere I went, preparations for the Fourth of July were already to be seen, whether they were ads in papers, community bulletin boards, newsletters, etc.

I find it quite inspiring to see the devotion a citizen gives to his/her country, sometimes for no other reason than simply being a citizen of that country; that in itself is pretty much the essence of patriotism. India, like the U.S., is full of patriotism as I witnessed and experienced during the recent Cricket World Cup matches. In celebration, all citizens were out on the streets dancing, waving their flag, singing, chanting, etc. It was truly a once-in-a-lifetime experience for me.

This July, I invite you to celebrate, honor, and respect America's Fourth of July while we look forward to celebrating, honoring, and respecting India's Independence Day next month on August 15!



Swati Patel  
Assistant Cultural Affairs Officer

## PAST EVENTS



Alumni from the first workshop pose after the certificate ceremony.

During the last week of June, the American Center, Mumbai, organized two 2-day professional development workshops, led by an experienced trainer, on "Myers Briggs Type Indicator (MBTI) and Understanding Your Personality Type" for alumni of various U.S. exchange programs. The 32 participating alumni hailed from a variety of programs such as the International Visitor Leadership Program including Voluntary Visitors, Study of the United States Institute, American Council of Young Political Leaders, Fulbright, Youth Exchange and Study, Near East and South Asia Undergraduate, Salzburg Seminar, and Seeds of Peace. Participants walked away with a better understanding of individual differences, uncovered new ways to work and interact with others, improved individual and team performance, developed effective leadership skills, and learned how to reduce workplace conflict.



Two alumni from different U.S. exchange programs network and delve into the MBTI.



Rich Martino and other Mummers parade during an Independence Day celebration in Philadelphia, on July 4, 2007. (AP Photo/Matt Rourke)

## NOTES FROM THE AMERICAN LIBRARY

Library members have access to thousands of journals online. A few databases are listed below.  
To access these, please contact the Information Desk at 2262-4590, ext. 2204.

### English Language Learner

#### English Language Learner Reference Center



This multipurpose information resource is designed for middle/high school students and those that are new to the English language.

English learners will find information on history, life skills, literature and science while learning the meanings, pronunciations, and proper usage of words.

### General Reference

#### Gale Virtual Reference Library



Gale Virtual Reference Library is a database of about 80 encyclopedias and specialized reference sources for multidisciplinary research.

Topics include law, education, religion, science, health, women's issues, bioethics, medicine, entrepreneurship, and more.

### Environment

#### Grzimek's Animals Online (Gale)



An online version of the 17-volume Animal Life Encyclopedia.

Provides information on over 4000 species.

Video and audio content, maps, and photos.

#### GREENR – Global Reference on Environment, Energy, and Natural Resources



Focuses on the physical, social, and economic aspects of environmental issues.

Centers around issues covering energy systems, healthcare, agriculture, climate change, population, and economic development.

#### Gale Directory Library



Find directories of colleges and universities, scholarships, business and legal information, research centers, and more.

#### Pop Culture Universe



Pop Culture Universe has information on U.S. and world popular culture – past and present.

Provides information that appeals to students on sports, music, movies, television, and fashion.

### Science



Provides information on today's most significant science topics, from biotechnology and medicine to astronomy and chemistry.

### Law

#### Lexis® Total Research System

Provides full-text legal information service.

Provides access to thousands of worldwide newspapers, magazines, trade journals, industry newsletters, tax and accounting information, financial data, public records, legislative records, data on companies and their executives.

#### Library (includes e-Libro and e-Livro)

Offers over 20,000 full-text books in English, and 35,000 full-text books in Spanish and Portuguese.

Covers a wide range of topics including sociology, psychology, history, political science, medicine, language and literature, philosophy and religion, education, business, and sciences.

American Library timings: Monday to Saturday (10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.)  
Internet-based library catalog: <http://amlibindia.state.gov>; E-mail: [libref@state.gov](mailto:libref@state.gov)



**Birth of Patriotism in the U.S.**  
**Discussion led by Penny Rechkemmer**

**Monday, July 18**  
**American Center Auditorium**

**6:00 p.m.**

When we think of the word patriotism, images of the U.S. flag, the bald eagle and lyrics to the U.S. national anthem often pop into our heads. Penny Rechkemmer will discuss the history of patriotism in the U.S. and its association with nationalism. She will also reveal the origins of U.S. patriotic symbols and their roll in American culture.

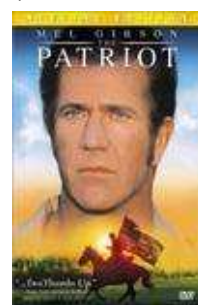
**Penny Rechkemmer** spent much of her younger years in Iowa. After college, she moved to Minneapolis where she attended the University of Minnesota and received a Master's degree in Public Health as well as a Ph.D. in Environmental Health. This is not Penny's first time in India; she also conducted her Ph.D. research on the health effects of cooking fuels on women's respiratory health in Mysore. She has also lived in the Bay Area of California, and in the Baltimore/Washington, D.C. area, as well as spent time in Nigeria doing her Master's research with women farmers.

**American Center Auditorium**  
**3:30 and 6:30 p.m.**

**Friday, July 8**

Mel Gibson is Benjamin Martin, the legendary "Hero of Fort Wilderness" who has left military life to raise his family on his South Carolina farm in 1776. But after a British commander torches his home and kills one of his sons, Gibson joins with oldest son Heath Ledger to lead a ragtag militia against the Redcoats. This stirring, action-packed epic also stars Chris Cooper, Joely Richardson and Jason Isaacs.

**The Patriot**  
 (2000, 165 mins)



**Friday, July 22**

Steven Spielberg's WWII epic is a stunning experience, telling the emotional story of an Army captain who, after facing the horrors of Omaha Beach on D-Day, receives orders to lead his troops on a search for a lost paratrooper whose three brothers were killed in combat. Tom Hanks stars as the no-nonsense captain; Edward Burns, Tom Sizemore and Giovanni Ribisi as members of his platoon; and Matt Damon as Private Ryan.

**Saving Private Ryan**  
 (1998, 169 mins)



**Will Facebook reach one billion users, or go the way of Friendster?** Find out on **July 11, 2011**, at a talk hosted by the American Center with social media expert Sree Sreenivasan. The event is **free and open to the public** in the **American Center auditorium** from **6:00 to 7:30 p.m.** on a first-come, first-served basis. Sreenivasan is a journalism educator, Dean of Student Affairs at Columbia Graduate School of Journalism, and a technology evangelist. He is one of: Poynter.org's 35 most influential people in social media; AdAge's 25 media people to follow on Twitter; Newsweek's 20 most influential South Asians in the U.S.; and India Abroad's 50 most influential Indians in America. So come join us to hear what this social media expert has to say!



Prof. R. David Lankes, Director, Information Institute of Syracuse, and Library Science Program, will discuss "The Role of the Librarian in Today's Society" with librarians, students and bibliophiles in the American Center auditorium through a digital video conference on **Thursday, July 28, 2011**, at **6.30 p.m.** Prof. Lankes will be discussing the role of librarians in the rapidly changing information environment, how librarians can adapt to new technologies, shrinking budgets, and the changing demographics of users. Please contact the American Library for details at [libref@state.gov](mailto:libref@state.gov) or call 2262-4590 ext. 2204.

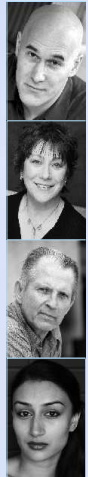
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**Swati Patel and Dhaval Ninawe**  
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**Admission to all American Center programs, restricted to persons over 14, unless otherwise specified, is on a first-come, first-served basis. The auditorium doors will open 30 minutes before the start of the program.**



The American Center, Mumbai is pleased to present the play, SUCCESS, to theatre enthusiasts of Mumbai! This play questions the definitions of success, both public and private, and examines the cost of its pursuit. What are the benefits and costs, both material and spiritual, for embracing global capitalism? SUCCESS breathes life into these questions and weighs them in the balance.

**Playwright** John Kishline  
**Director** Edward Morgan  
**Actor/Playwright** John Kishline  
**Actor/Director** Edward Morgan  
**Actor** Deborah Clifton  
**Actor** Kriti Pant  
**Stage Manager** Sam Kishline



## First showing

**When:** August 12, 2011 at 7:00 PM

**Where:** Y.B. Chavan Auditorium,  
General Jagannathrao Bhonsle  
Marg, Mumbai 400 021.

**Cost:** NONE! Passes for free entry will be available at Y.B. Chavan Center and at the American Center Library on a first-come, first-serve basis from August 1st onwards.

## Second showing

**When:** August 16, 2011 at 7:00 PM

**Where:** St. Andrews' Auditorium,  
St. Dominic Road, Bandra West,  
Mumbai 400 050

**Cost:** NONE! Passes for free entry will be available at St. Andrews' Auditorium and at the American Center Library on a first-come, first-serve basis from August 1st onwards.

**Duration: 75 minutes,**  
No intermission